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## Festival Fun for All



Don't forget: The Sandy Springs Festival will be held September 16-17. Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the two-day event features live entertainment, childrens' rides, heritage education, artists' market, collector car show, food court and more. The event kicks off with a 10K road race, which is a Peachtree Road Race qualifier. For more information, visit the Festival Web site at [www.sandyspringsfestival.com](http://www.sandyspringsfestival.com), contact the Festival staff at 404-851-1328 or E-mail at [info@sandyspringsfestival.com](mailto:info@sandyspringsfestival.com).

## Greetings!

Our City has passed several new milestones in recent weeks:

Our new police force is out on the streets and extremely visible. The effect is to deter crime and to make us all safer. Already the department under the leadership of Chief Gene Wilson has apprehended numerous offenders and taken them off the street. Traffic citations are also being processed. The Municipal Court in July handled more than 2,500 violations.

We have instituted a program that requires all apartment owners to have their apartments inspected by certified inspectors. The Council enacted the apartment inspection ordinance in order to provide for safer apartments and to ensure that the housing codes are enforced in our City. This action comes on top of eight "apartment sweeps" that Code Enforcement has conducted during the past seven months. These sweeps involve various departments of our City government that focus on a given apartment complex that result in rehabilitation of the inspected units.

The City is preparing for the start up of our own fire department, beginning with the employment of Chief Jack McElfish. New equipment has been ordered, and the Fire Department will be under City operation in December of this year. With the formation of the new cities of Milton and Johns Creek, it is possible that a cooperative arrangement will be developed involving more than the City of Sandy Springs. This will help spread overhead costs.

As fall approaches, we long to say goodbye to the hazy, lazy days of summer, and enjoy cooler temperatures and all the season has to offer. Let's do just that in Sandy Springs!

Regards,

Mayor Eva Galambos, Ph.D.  
City of Sandy Springs



Mayor  
Eva Galambos

## City Launches Comprehensive Plan

The City of Sandy Springs has launched its Comprehensive Plan with an initial meeting of a 25-member Citizen Advisory Committee at City Hall on July 24. This was the first of several meetings to which the public is invited.

Georgia cities must submit their comprehensive plan to the state to become certified to receive regional, state and federal grants for projects. To become a certified city by the Georgia Department of Community Development, the planning effort must comply with state standards and procedures. The City of Sandy Springs' plan must be completed by December 2007.

"We will build upon the substantial work done by Fulton County in its Fulton 2025 plan, but our plan will mirror the values of the citizens of Sandy Springs and add refinements to the current plan under which we are operating," said Mayor Eva Galambos. "Our new city needs its own vision, its own sense of destiny, to channel this planning effort," she added.

"As directed by the Mayor, this planning process will be an open and inclusive process," added Nancy Leathers, director of Community Development.

"There are issues and opportunities that the committee will explore hoping to develop strategies for implementation."

The comprehensive plan will go beyond state standards and present a Transportation Master Plan and a Master Plan for Recreation and Parks. It will also extend to include an impact fee analysis, leading to an impact fee ordinance. A team of consultants will work under the direction of city planner Larry Fonts, project manager-Comprehensive Plan. Please check the City's Web site at [www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org) for more information and the dates and times of the next Comprehensive Plan meetings.



## City Names New Fire Chief

Jack K. McElfish has been named Sandy Springs' first fire chief. McElfish holds a master's degree in public administration and in fire science. In addition, he was one of the first 15 people in the country to receive the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) designation. First appointed as a fire chief in 1981, he has served as fire chief in Richmond, Va.; Wallingford, Conn.; Clayton County, Ga.; and Gwinnett County, Ga. Earlier in his career, McElfish was public affairs director and fire training coordinator in Montgomery County, Pa., and a station commander in Montgomery County, Md. He served in the US Air Force in Ramstein, Germany, as a crash/rescue firefighter. While chief in Clayton County, his department held responsibilities that included Hartsfield-Jackson Airport. His experience is with communities that closely reflect Sandy Springs and its needs.



Jack K. McElfish

The chief's work experience includes comprehensive and varied fire service and local government management. He has a successful management record of directing a metropolitan and large county-wide fire department; developing and implementing a complete county-wide fire and rescue training program that was practical, functional and effective; and directing a progressive combination career/volunteer fire department.

McElfish has been an instructor and an adjunct faculty member at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, as well as the Metro Atlanta Fire Chiefs Association, and he served as president of the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs. He also holds memberships in the International City Management Association, National Fire Protection Association and Rotary Club.

In appointing McElfish, City Manager John McDonough commented on the breadth of experience he brings to Sandy Springs: "Jack McElfish is an innovator with a proven history of providing outstanding fire and life safety services to the communities he has served. We are pleased to have such a capable leader to help us create a fire department for Sandy Springs."



## Transportation Update

During this quarter, the City's Transportation department progressed with design, right-of-way actions and project management on 20 capital improvement projects. It continued to work with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) on the under-

construction intersection improvement projects at Dunwoody Place/Roswell Road and Northridge Road/Roswell Road. Other projects are in different stages of design with construction expected on a number of them in FY07. We are continuing to coordinate with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and GDOT on projects with federal and state funding, and obtaining their assistance and approvals as necessary. Additionally, the department is beginning work on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. This effort will include several meetings with the public and with a citizens' advisory committee during the data gathering, analysis and planning stages. The City's Web site is a great place to go to keep up with the ongoing transportation projects: [www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org).

## Going Green



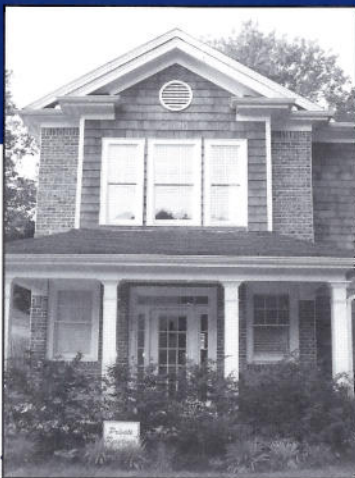
The City of Sandy Springs is working with citizens to revise the 20-year-old tree ordinance in order to make it a more effective law. "We want to provide incentives for people to save trees," said Michael Barnett, the City's arborist, "not be so focused on the violations and penalties stemming from the ordinance. This [ordinance] is 20 years old and has been revised once; it just doesn't work for us any more."

Barnett added the ordinance had originally been designed for rural and also large-scale commercial projects—not urban, infill projects that are the norm in Sandy Springs. "A citizen committee needs to study the tree canopy, to address the needs and make the appropriate changes," Barnett added.

During the next few months, there will be a public comment phase, the City Council will hear recommendations in its work sessions and then the changes will be voted on. The vote is tentatively set for November.

The three main issues that are to be addressed are redefining specimen trees, incentives for saving more trees and providing more parking lot shade trees.

"The bottom line is we want this ordinance to be easy to understand," concluded Barnett.



## Recreation & Parks: All Aces

Just east of the intersection of Roswell and Abernathy Roads, in the City of Sandy Springs, sits a tennis Mecca—the North Fulton Tennis Center. The central location allows easy access to the center for not only Sandy Springs-based players, but also for those from all areas of Atlanta. Each month, more than 2,000 players visit the center, named by Tennis magazine as "one of the finest public facilities in the country."

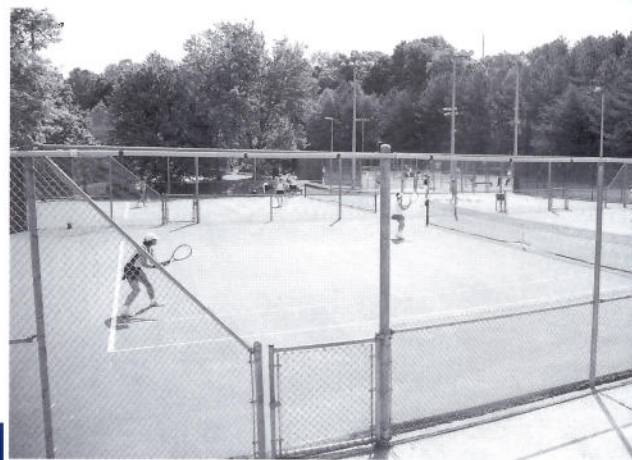
The mild climate in the metro Atlanta area contributes to the popularity of tennis in the region. More than 85,000 metro residents are members of the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association (ALTA), and 100 ALTA teams play regularly on the center's 24 lighted courts. The North Fulton Tennis Center is also the regional home for the ALTA and USTA finals. But it's not only adult players who hit the courts at the center. North Fulton hosts eight junior tournaments a year. The Little Mo Tournament, which took place on August 12 and 13, attracted junior players from across the East Coast. Also, the JCC Maccabi games, an Olympic-style event for Jewish teens ages 13-16, will be drawing thousands of teenagers and their families to the center in 2007.

Nine local private schools use the North Fulton Tennis Center as their site of choice for their students to play matches, and the center is proud to host

school championships. Every summer, the center hosts the Sandy Springs Tennis Academy, attracting tiny tots through older, nationally ranked players.

For active seniors seeking recreational play, North Fulton has four clay courts, providing an excellent option for players who have had joint replacements. Clay courts provide a softer surface than hard courts, making play easier on joints, and other areas of the body.

Ivo Barbic, manager of the North Fulton Tennis Center, has been managing Atlanta-area tennis centers and clubs since 1975. He, together with his staff of eight passionate USTA-certified pros, works to promote tennis in Sandy Springs. Whether you are a beginner or advanced player, and regardless of whether you are seeking lessons, some time on the court for a doubles match with friends or just want to have a look at the onsite pro shop, please stop by the center. To learn more, visit [www.northfultontennis.com](http://www.northfultontennis.com) or call 404-303-6182.



## Voters Pass All Homestead Exemptions

On Tuesday, July 18, citizens of Sandy Springs were presented with a special referendum on homestead exemptions. All six measures on the ballot passed by an overwhelming majority. Generally, a homeowner is entitled to a homestead exemption on a home and land underneath, providing the home was owned by the homeowner and was his or her legal residence as of January 1 of the taxable year. Voting in favor of these exemptions kept the Fulton County homestead exemption laws in effect for all Sandy Springs homeowners. The Fulton County Tax Assessor will continue to bill for and collect property taxes and forward them to the City of Sandy Springs.

## New Program Kicked Off to Kick Out Illegal Signs



Code Enforcement Assistant Director Troy Smith

At the end of July, the Sandy Springs Community Development Department introduced a new citizen involvement program to help keep the City free of prohibited signs and other code violations. Illegal signs can not only cause clutter, but they can also be dangerous when they obstruct drivers' vision because of their placement in rights-of-way. By enlisting the help of active citizens with watchful eyes, the City believes the new Citizen Deputy Program will reduce the number of illegal signs.

The first Citizen Deputy information session took place at 7 p.m. on July 24 at City Hall. Several citizens gathered that evening for a presentation by

Code Enforcement officers and held a lively discussion.

To become a citizen deputy, an individual must be 18 or older, live or work within the City limits and have no criminal background.

Evening orientation sessions about the Citizen Deputy Program will take place every other month. During these sessions, citizens are able to meet City staff and learn about the Sandy Springs Zoning Ordinance and how to recognize and report unauthorized signage in the City. If you would like to help the City by volunteering to be a Citizen Deputy, please contact Code Enforcement at 770-730-5600.

## New Police Department Rides Into the Night

Criminals have a new force to contend with.

The Sandy Springs Police Department took to the streets, sirens blaring, after a reception at City Hall that began on the evening of June 30. At the stroke of midnight, about half the department's 60 police cars marked the inauguration by lining up double file, turning on their flashing overhead lights in a procession down Roswell Road.

A crowd of more than 200 family members and citizens packed City Hall during the sendoff reception to extend their best wishes to the department. Police officers in uniform made a grand entrance through the roomful of guests amid applause.

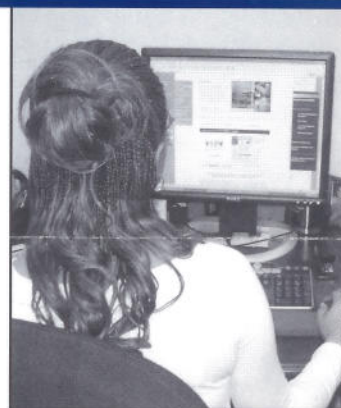
Addressing the crowd during the event were Mayor Eva Galambos, City Manager John McDonough and Police Chief Gene Wilson. "Congratulations," Mayor Galambos said, turning to the cadre of officers seated near the front, "you are truly the best of the best."

The new department went on duty with 86 officers, administrators and investigators to cover the 37 square miles in Sandy Springs.

Planning for the department began in late 2005, with Chief Wilson assuming his post in January. Most of the officers – including 34 who came over from the Fulton County Police Department– have more than five years of experience. Interviewing and testing of police candidates took place during the spring and officer training began in June. For non-emergencies, the Police Department may be reached at 404.250.0327.



E-Blast



## E-Blast Offers News in Brief

Our monthly E-Blast is designed to give citizens up-to-date information about Sandy Springs in a "quick hit" format. The electronic publication features a series of news briefs linked to expanded information. To sign up for the E-Blast and other City memos, visit the City's home page at [www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org). Just click the link next to the black keyboard graphic, complete the electronic form and hit the "submit" button. You'll be added to our E-mail list.

The latest copy of the E-Blast is accessible from the Web site's home page.